

Extract of a letter from a supercargo of a vessel belonging to Philadelphia, dated Surinam, 12th April, 1796—received by post, by the ship Lewis, arrived at Baltimore.

"I arrived in this town on the 10th instant, and found the markets overstocked with provisions and dry goods, and no sales could be made without 40 per cent. loss, except a few articles. I intend to proceed to leeward, where I am in hopes of doing better. Sugar is eight dollars. Coffee 8 1/2 silver per bl. molasses are not to be had. About 20 days before my arrival 15 sail of Dutch merchantmen arrived with full cargoes of provisions and dry goods.

"Flour is now selling from 8 to 10 dollars per barrel; pork 12 dollars; beef 9 to 10 dollars; and few purchasers. Within these two weeks 20 sail of American vessels left this place, not being able to dispose of their cargoes."

BALTIMORE, May 30.

Extract of a letter from Liverpool, of the 7th of April, received per the Carrollton.

"From various causes the prices of many of your exports have declined considerably—prime wheat 11s. per 70lbs.—flour 45s. per barrel—Indian corn 4s. to 4s. 6d. but the demand is dull, that it cannot be said there is any sale for it. The demand for cotton of every description is extremely dull.—The situation of Europe in general, and of this kingdom in particular, will continue to render this market very fluctuating."

A gentleman who came passenger in the sloop Nancy from Barbadoes, informs, that while he was there the English fleet arrived under the command of admirals Abercrombie and Christian. Rear-admiral Cornwallis, (whom our last accounts from London stated as being broke from his commission) arrived a few days after in a single frigate; shortly after which, a number of troops embarked for St. Lucia. He confirms the account of the engagement at St. Lucia between the English and French, and of the capture of Demerara by the former.

June 1. By a gentleman of respectability who arrived yesterday from Philadelphia, we are informed, that he had on Saturday evening last received information from Mr. Wheaton, sergeant at arms, of the cessation of hostilities, and that it was so believed in congress:—He adds, the report was brought by the arrival of the Princess Royal at New-York. On close inspection we find no details given in the New-York papers, which might in any respect lead to such a report. The accounts brought by the snow Hebe to Philadelphia, are one day later than those brought by the arrival at New-York. Negotiations of some sort may be going forward, but no accounts as yet confirm the news of peace.

Extract of a letter from a respectable house in London, dated 5th April, 1796.

"We hear that preliminaries between the French and Austrians are concluded on. Yesterday our markets sunk at least 10s. per quarter. The adventurers in grain and flour will be great losers, and the speculators in rice still more. American wheat, 66s. a 76s. per quarter. Indian corn, 40s. a 44s. per quarter. Flour 29s. 6d. a 31 per cwt. And the prices merely nominal."

Extract of a letter from London, dated April 8.

"We send you some news-papers of late dates by this conveyance. You will find by them that an expectation of an immediate peace is generally prevalent, and great speculations in our funds are going forward on the same opinions. We confess, however, we think this opinion slightly taken up, and the speculation it hath given rise to ruinous."

ANNAPOLIS, June 2.

The following paragraphs appear under the Francisfort head of the 15th of March:

The reports of peace and war have succeeded each other with great rapidity, throughout Germany, within this last fortnight. Letters from Vienna even give reason to believe, for an instant, that a plan of pacification was on the tapis, and that, but for the obstinacy of the minister of state, baron Thugut, who thwarted the pacific views of marshal Clairfayt, it would already have been carried into execution.

Be it as it may, we are assured that it is in contemplation to hold a general congress of all the belligerent powers at Constance, in order to attempt to bring about a general pacification.

For the MARYLAND GAZETTE.

The INQUISITOR, No. IV.

Rumorem, fabulam falsam, fidam perhorrescimus.

CICERO.

Every passing rumour, every false and fabulous story, inspire a dread.

THE number of complaints, from distressed innocence against slander, which are now before the inquisition, and the dangerous tendency of this vice, have induced our court to request a second number from me on it.

In my last number on this subject I confined myself chiefly to the causes of this vice, and the principal means of warding off the attacks of it. I shall now take into consideration some other circumstances which do not yield in importance to those in my last.

The majority of those vices which disturb the happiness of mankind are such, that how muchsoever they may be below the dignity of man, and however assisting in their consequences, they can extend their effects no farther than to the person, in whose breast they may be found, or beyond the tranquillity of his domestic abode. But slander is such, that it not only ultimately inflicts the most excruciating torments upon

the conscience of him who breathes it forth, but also aims at undermining the most important pillars of civil society, by destroying the reputations of the virtuous and innocent; by robbing virtue of that respect so essential to its support; and by introducing a jealousy and circumspection no way suitable to the designs of human nature.

When therefore the guilt of this vice is so enormous, how painful must it be to reflect that it should be so prevalent amongst those who should be the foremost to renounce it; that it should meet with so favourable a reception from those whose situation in life render them so conspicuous above the rest of mankind by reason of that wealth and greatness which should conspire to make them the most strenuous exemplars of virtue; and that it should be so much caressed and fondled in the gay circles of fashion!

When their whole fund of ordinary subjects for conversation is exhausted, or when they may be oppressed by idleness, they have nothing to do but to invent some new tale, by which the conversation may be kept up; or to inform us of some late *tête à tête*, which never was heard of before; and I have understood, that for fear of missing a *shot* at a good reputation, or of suffering their conversable faculties to lie dormant, they will sometime have at the reputation of even a friend.

But there is no time when virtue should tremble more for its reputation, than when one of those people are about to *kill time*, (which so frequently happens that a superficial observer would be apt to believe that nature had intended an irreconcilable hatred between them and time.) For after this execution is performed, it seldom happens but that the reputations of the most virtuous part of the community come forth mangled and maimed in the performance. And when they undertake this task of *killing poor Time*, by a wonderful suddenness of recollection, the most minute circumstances of a person's conduct are brought up in the mind; and when their recollection may fail them, or when their tale may not have in it enough to recommend it, equally quick in their invention, they have little difficulty in framing a new one, or of adding what may render the most trifling, important.

So necessary is slander to the existence almost of the fashionable world, that to deprive it of this would be aiming at nothing less than the deprivation of its very essence.

How, amongst so many boasted amusements which surround this gay part of mankind, they should be reduced to the necessity of flying to scandal for entertainment, or what enjoyment can be found in deploiling innocence and virtue of that reputation which is one of their brightest ornaments, in torturing their peace of mind, and even sometimes bringing them with sorrow to the grave, is difficult to be found. This will appear still more difficult, when we consider the danger in which the detractors themselves are placed, who, at the very moment that they are using every method to undermine the characters of those around them, cannot tell but that those very arts, which he himself is practising against others, are employed against himself.

But however painful the reflection of this practice must be, we cannot help smiling at the means which are made use of in calumniating to obtain belief. Dr. Johnson has reckoned up three most general methods, and has denominated those under them *Roarers, Whispersers and Moderators*. The Roarer (says he) is an enemy rather terrible than dangerous. He has no other qualification for a champion of controversy, than a hardened front and strong voice. Having seldom so much desire to confute as to silence, he depends rather on vociferation than argument, and has very little care to adjust one part of his accusation to another, to preserve decency in his language, or probability in his narratives. He has always a store of reproachful epithets, and contemptuous appellations, ready to be produced as occasion may require, which, by constant use, he pours out with resistless volubility.

The Whisperm gains attention by a soft address, and excites curiosity by an air of importance. As secrets are not to be made cheap by promiscuous publication, he calls a select audience about him, and gratifies their vanity with an appearance of trust, by communicating intelligence in a low voice.

Without any interest in the question, or any motive but honest curiosity, this impartial and zealous inquirer after truth (speaking of the Moderator) is ready to hear either side of the question, and always disposed to kind interpretations and favourable opinions. He always discovers faults with the greatest unwillingness, and, by a shew of the greatest candour, easily inculcates belief. I am sorry that the bounds of my paper are so narrow as to render me unable to introduce the whole of these characters, as written by the author, and are such, that I am scarcely able to introduce the outlines of them; but, however, from what I have taken in, every person, from his own observations, will be able to delineate the characters at full length in his own mind.

But the manner made use of in fashionable life does not effectually preclude innocence from the possibility of a defence. There may be persons present who may not be so deaf to the calls of friendship as to step forward in defence of their friend; and the injured may possibly have the opportunity of meeting face to face before the world, him who has dared to violate their good name. But in lampoonery and other methods of that sort, which have been practised for the defamation of virtue, take away even the shadow of a possibility of a defence. To the authors of these the night generally affords a cover to hide them in their detestable assassinations. One day, we may bask in the sunshine of reputation, enjoying the full rewards of virtue; on the next we find ourselves involved in the darkness of infamy; whilst the only truth we know is the melancholy one, that our reputation has been

assassinated, whilst we can only behold the instrument, but not the person by whom it was done! Here then we find the guilt of slander doubly augmented; in the one case the detractor adds the part of an open murderer, in the other of a base assassin; to the original meanness of slander is added both meanness and cowardice in the other, and a suspicion and jealousy that the most virtuous breasts cannot entirely overcome. And whilst we are tortured with every suffering which the loss of our character can cause us to endure, our detractor may quietly behold us under the lashes of infamy, from behind the curtain which he has thrown between us. How base, how abandoned, must that heart be, which can be so insensible to every tie of humanity, so callous to every impression of virtue, and so hardened in wickedness and cruelty, as to look on, with quietness and unconcern, at the painful sufferings of the innocent; the consequences of its diabolical plans?

I cannot conclude this paper without requesting the ladies, upon whom so much power depends, to exert their whole influence against this dangerous and detestable vice.

E. R. R. A. T. U. M.

The last paragraph in our 3d number read as follows, "If we should seem to have been particular, or to have entered on a common place topic, we shall have ample compensation should we succeed in *chatting*, though we may not be able to confine, the darts of calumny; and we shall reflect with confidence that none can take offence; but those whose conscience tells them they merit it."

NOTICE.

THE COMMISSIONERS appointed by law for taking subscriptions to the BANK OF BALTIMORE, give notice, that they will attend at the house of Mr. JAMES WHARRE, on Monday the 6th of June, and the two following days, from the hours of 9 in the morning until one o'clock of each of the three days, for the purpose of receiving said subscriptions.

On Saturday the second day of July next, I shall OFFER at PUBLIC SALE, at Port-Tobacco, in Charles county,

A TRACT of LAND, called SAINT MATTHEWS, containing 204 acres, late the property of the bishop of Chelms, lying within five or six miles of Port-Tobacco.

And on Monday the 4th day of July, at Chaptico, in St. Mary's county, I shall offer for sale, the following lots of LAND, part of CHAPTICO MANOR, viz. Lot No. 42, containing 83 1/2 acres, more or less. Lot No. 34, containing 178 1/2 acres, more or less, and vacancy. No. 34, containing 33 1/2 acres, more or less; the whole of the above property will be sold on a credit till the first day of December next, the purchaser giving bond, with approved security, on interest from the day of sale; one third of the principal may be paid in deferred stock, and the other two thirds in late certificates, or six per cent. stock. Sundry other lots in Chaptico Manor will be sold by the Sheriff of St. Mary's county, under my direction, at the same time the above lots are offered for sale.

WILLIAM MARBURY, Agent for the State of Maryland.

In CHANCERY, May 31, 1796.

A BIJAH BOND, an insolvent debtor of Prince George's county, having made application to the chancellor, by petition in writing, praying the benefit of the act for the relief of sundry insolvent debtors, passed at the last session, on the terms therein mentioned, and a schedule of his property, and a list of his creditors, so far as he can ascertain the same, on oath, being annexed to his petition, and the chancellor being satisfied, by competent testimony, that the said Abijah Bond is, and at the time of passing the said act was, a citizen of the United States, and of this state; and the said Abijah Bond, at the time of presenting his petition, having produced to the chancellor the assent in writing of so many of his creditors as have due to them, according to the list aforesaid, the amount of three fourths of the debts due by him, at the time of passing the said act; it is thereupon adjudged and ordered, that the said Abijah Bond, by causing a copy of this order to be inserted three weeks successively in the Maryland Gazette, before the 30th day of June next, give notice to his creditors to appear in the chancery-office, at 10 o'clock on the third day of July next, for the purpose of recommending some person to be trustee for their benefit, on the said Abijah Bond then and there taking the oath by the said act prescribed for delivering up his property, &c.

Test. SAMUEL HARVEY HOWARD, Reg. Cur. Can.

STOLEN from the subscriber's plantation, about one mile from Herring-Creek church, and eighteen from the city of Annapolis, on Saturday the 7th of May, a likely black HORSE, about thirteen hands and an half high, he paces, trots and gallops, and has some white hairs in his forehead, when rode carries his tail on one side. Whoever takes up said horse, and will bring him to the subscriber, shall receive FIVE DOLLARS REWARD.

May 27, 1796. SAMUEL DEALEY

THE creditors of EDWARD HOLLAND, deceased, are requested to attend at the subscriber's dwelling, in this city, on Saturday the 27th day of June next, in order to receive their dividends.

ISAAC HOLLAND, Administrator. Annapolis, May 26, 1796.